

In the Claims

The claims are amended as follows. Non-elected claims 24-28 and 43-53 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

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1. (currently amended) A masonry block resulting from a splitting operation performed on a molded workpiece by ~~at least one~~ a first splitting assembly in a block splitter having a splitting line, the at least one splitting assembly including that includes one or more splitting members positioned to define a splitting line and to engage the workpiece to split it generally along the splitting line and further includes a plurality of projections disposed on at least one side of adjacent the splitting line on at least one side thereof and positioned to engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation, the masonry block comprising:

a block body including a top surface, a bottom surface, a front surface extending between the top and bottom surfaces, a rear surface extending between the top and bottom surfaces, and side surfaces between the front and rear surfaces; a locator protrusion formed integrally with the block and disposed on the top or bottom surface thereof; the intersection of the front surface and the top surface defining an upper edge, and the intersection of the front surface and the bottom surface defining a lower edge; and wherein at least a portion of the front surface and at least a portion of one of either the upper edge and/or the lower edge are roughened as a result of the plurality of projections engaging splitting assembly splitting and breaking away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation.

2. (currently amended) The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the block splitter includes a second splitting assembly opposed to the first splitting assembly, the second splitting assembly including one or more splitting members positioned to define the splitting line and to engage the workpiece to split it generally along the splitting line and also including with a plurality of projections disposed on the same side of adjacent the splitting line on at least one side thereof and positioned to engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece, the projections of the second splitting assembly being disposed on the same side of the splitting line as the projections of the first splitting assembly, and wherein at least a portion of the upper edge

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and at least a portion of the lower edge of the block are roughened by the projections during the splitting operation.

3. (currently amended) The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the at least one roughened upper edge or lower edge is generally rounded.

4. (original) The masonry block of claim 1, wherein a portion of at least one of the side surfaces is textured as a result of the action of the workpiece-forming mold.

5. (original) The masonry block of claim 4, wherein a portion of each of the side surfaces is textured as a result of the action of the workpiece-forming mold.

6. (original) The masonry block of claim 4, wherein the textured portion of the at least one side surface is adjacent the front surface.

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7. (original) The masonry block of claim 4, wherein the textured portion of the at least one side surface is the entire side surface.

8. (original) The masonry block of claim 1, further including a radiused section connecting the front surface to at least one of the side surfaces.

9. (original) The masonry block of claim 1, further including radiused sections connecting the front surface to both of the side surfaces.

10. (original) The masonry block of claim 9, wherein each of said radiused sections is textured as a result of the action of the workpiece-forming mold.

11. (original) The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the front surface is mottled.

12. (original) The masonry block of claim 11, wherein the mottling is produced by a plurality of colors in the material that forms the masonry block.

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13. (original) The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the locator protrusion comprises a locator lip.

14. (currently amended) The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the front surface is generally rounded when viewed from the side.

15. (currently amended) The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the projections are generally cylindrically shaped.

16. (currently amended) The masonry block of claim 15, wherein the projections have generally-rounded tips.

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17. (original) The masonry block of claim 15, wherein the projections have irregular tips.

18. (currently amended) The masonry block of claim 15, wherein the projections have a diameter of between about 0.5 inch to and about 1.25 inches.

19. (original) The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the projections comprise plates.

20. (currently amended) The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the projections are generally pyramidal in shape.

21. (currently amended) The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the ~~splitting assembly includes a one or more splitting members of the first splitting assembly is a single~~ splitting blade aligned with the splitting line, wherein the blade has a workpiece-engaging edge, and wherein said projections have a tip that is positioned about 3/8 inch above or below the top of the blade workpiece-engaging tips, and wherein said workpiece-engaging tips are positioned relative to the workpiece-engaging edge so as to be between about 3/8 inch ahead of the workpiece-engaging edge and about 3/8 inch behind the workpiece-engaging edge.

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22. (original) A wall formed from a plurality of masonry blocks according to claim 1.

23. (original) The wall of claim 22, wherein a plurality of different sizes of the masonry blocks are used.

Claims 24-28 (canceled)

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29. (currently amended) A masonry block that is produced from a molded workpiece that is split in a block splitter ~~having a splitting line, said block splitter comprising~~ having a first splitting assembly that includes one or more splitting members positioned to define a splitting line and to engage the workpiece to split it generally along the splitting line and that further includes a plurality of projections disposed on at least one side of adjacent the splitting line on at least one side thereof, said projections being positioned so that they engage to engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation, whereby the masonry block includes at least one irregular edge and surface produced by said first splitting assembly splitting and breaking away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation.

30. (currently amended) The masonry block of claim 29, wherein the block splitter ~~comprises~~ includes a second splitting assembly opposed to the first splitting assembly, and wherein said second splitting assembly includes one or more splitting members positioned to define the splitting line and to engage the workpiece to split it generally along the splitting line and includes a plurality of projections adjacent the splitting line on at least one side thereof and positioned so that they engage to engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation, the projections of the second splitting assembly being disposed on the same side of the splitting line as the projections of the first splitting assembly, whereby the masonry block includes an opposed pair of irregular edges.

31. (original) The masonry block of claim 29, wherein a surface of the masonry block includes a textured portion as a result of the action of the workpiece-forming mold.

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32. (original) The masonry block of claim 31, wherein the textured portion is on a side surface of the masonry block adjacent a front surface thereof.

33. (original) The masonry block of claim 29, further including a locator protrusion formed integrally on a bottom surface of the block.

34. (original) The masonry block of claim 33, wherein the locator protrusion comprises a lip.

35. (original) The masonry block of claim 29, wherein the irregular split surface is mottled.

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36. (original) The masonry block of claim 35, wherein the mottling is produced by a plurality of colors in the material that forms the masonry block.

37. (currently amended) A method of producing a masonry block having at least one irregular split edge and surface during a splitting operation, comprising:

providing a masonry block splitter having a splitting line with which a masonry workpiece to be split is to be aligned, the block splitter including a first block splitting assembly that includes one or more splitting members positioned to define a splitting line and to engage a masonry workpiece to split it generally along the splitting line when the splitting assembly is activated and that includes a plurality of projections disposed on at least one side of adjacent the splitting line on at least one side thereof, said projections being positioned so that they engage to engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece when the splitting assembly is activated during the splitting operation;

locating aligning a masonry workpiece in the masonry block splitter so that the workpiece is aligned with the splitting line; and

splitting the workpiece into at least two pieces using activating the first splitting assembly.

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38. (currently amended) The method of claim 37, further including the ~~step~~ steps of providing the ~~masonry block splitter~~ with a second splitting assembly opposed to the first splitting assembly ~~and operating in concert therewith~~, the second splitting assembly including one or more splitting members positioned to define the splitting line and to engage the workpiece to split it generally along the splitting line and including a plurality of projections disposed adjacent the splitting line on the same side of the splitting line as the projections of the first splitting assembly, said projections of the second splitting assembly being positioned so that they engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation, and activating the first and second opposed splitting assemblies in concert, whereby the resulting masonry block includes an opposed pair of irregular edges.

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39. (currently amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the first and second splitting assemblies are provided with a plurality of projections disposed on each side of and adjacent to the splitting line.

40. (currently amended) A masonry block that is produced from a molded workpiece that is split in a block splitter having a first splitting blade assembly comprising with a cutting first splitting edge, and blade a plurality of first engagement surfaces extending away from the cutting first splitting edge at acute angles, said first engagement surfaces being positioned to engage the workpiece and to break away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation, and which are engageable with the workpiece during the splitting operation, and a first plurality of projections projecting from at least one of the first engagement surfaces adjacent the first splitting edge, said first projections being positioned to engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation, whereby the masonry block includes at least one irregular split edge and surface produced by said first splitting blade assembly.

41. (currently amended) The masonry block of claim 40, wherein the block splitter includes a second splitting blade assembly opposed to the first splitting blade assembly, and wherein the second splitting blade assembly includes a cutting second splitting edge, and blade a plurality of second engagement surfaces extending away from the cutting second splitting edge

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at acute angles, said second engagement surfaces being positioned to engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation, and which are engageable with the workpiece during the splitting operation and a second plurality of projections projecting from at least one of the second engagement surfaces adjacent the second splitting edge, whereby the masonry block includes an opposed pair of irregular edges.

42. (currently amended) The masonry block of claim 41, wherein the acute angles of the engagement surfaces on the first and second splitting blades are preferably between about 0 degrees and about 30 degrees.

Claims 43-53 (canceled)

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54. (new) The masonry block of claim 29, wherein the one or more splitting members is a single splitting blade aligned with the splitting line.

55. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the one or more splitting members is a single splitting blade aligned with the splitting line.

56. (new) The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the projections engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece substantially simultaneously with, or subsequent to, the one or more splitting members engaging the workpiece.

57. (new) The masonry block of claim 56, wherein at least some of the projections break away portions of the workpiece subsequent to the one or more splitting members engaging the workpiece.

58. (new) The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the projections are positioned to travel into the workpiece during the splitting operation.

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59. (new) The masonry block of claim 29, wherein the projections engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece substantially simultaneously with, or subsequent to, the one or more splitting members engaging the workpiece.

60. (new) The masonry block of claim 59, wherein at least some of the projections break away portions of the workpiece subsequent to the one or more splitting members engaging the workpiece.

61. (new) The masonry block of claim 29, wherein the projections are positioned to travel into the workpiece during the splitting operation.

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62. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the projections engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece substantially simultaneously with, or subsequent to, the one or more splitting members engaging the workpiece.

63. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein at least some of the projections break away portions of the workpiece subsequent to the one or more splitting members engaging the workpiece.

64. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the projections are positioned to travel into the workpiece during the splitting operation.

65. (new) The masonry block of claim 40, wherein the first projections engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece substantially simultaneously with, or subsequent to, the first splitting edge engaging the workpiece.

66. (new) The masonry block of claim 65, wherein at least some of the first projections break away portions of the workpiece subsequent to the first splitting edge engaging the workpiece.

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67. (new) The masonry block of claim 40, wherein the first projections are positioned to travel into the workpiece during the splitting operation.

68. (new) The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the one or more splitting members comprise portions of at least some of the projections.

69. (new) The masonry block of claim 29, wherein the one or more splitting members comprise portions of at least some of the projections.

70. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the one or more splitting members comprise portions of at least some of the projections.
